



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
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News Release

SBOH 04-02

For immediate release: March 9, 2004

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State and Tacoma-Pierce County Boards of Health to Meet Jointly and Discuss Health Disparities

Wednesday, March 10, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Bates Technical College, Boardroom, 1101 S Yakima Ave, Tacoma

The Washington State Board of Health will hold its March meeting in the Clyde Hupp boardroom of Bates Technical College in Tacoma on Wednesday, March 10. The afternoon session will be a joint meeting with the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health. The main agenda item will be a discussion of health disparities, and in particular, efforts to increase the diversity of the health care workforce.

During the morning session, SBOH will hear updates on efforts to revise SBOH rules related to onsite septic systems and the safety of swimming pools and other water recreation facilities. The Board will also discuss a draft memorandum of understanding about environmental practices by cruise ships operating in Washington waters, and whether temporary provisions requiring that health departments be notified about cases of certain communicable diseases and birth defects should be made permanent.

The State Board of Health meets regularly with local boards across the state to improve communication and better understand local concerns. Sometimes those meetings take the form of joint work sessions on topics of mutual interest. Wednesday's joint session will allow SBOH to hear from TPCBOH about local initiatives such as water fluoridation and the ban on smoking in public places. The two Boards then will hear about recent developments in efforts to address conditions that cause some groups to receive lower quality health care and have poorer health outcomes than the population as a whole.

Copies of the agenda and related materials are available by contacting the Board of Health at (360) 236-4110 or by visiting the Board's Web site at www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/.

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The State Board of Health serves the citizens of Washington by working to understand and prevent disease across the entire population. Established in 1889 by the State Constitution, the Board provides leadership by suggesting public health policies and actions, by regulating certain activities, and by providing a public forum. The governor appoints ten members who fill three-year terms. Visit the board's Web site at www.doh.wa.gov/sboh/.